

Message Text

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43

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00

USIA-15 RSR-01 /071 W

----- 101964

P R 161135Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 473

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 6605

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, SWEL, PK

SUBJ: PUNJAB FLOOD SITUATION

REF: LAHORE 0955

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI DATED AUG 15,1973

REPEATING FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO ACCORDINGLY.

QUOTE

LAHORE 0962

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, SWEL, PK

SUBJECT: PUNJAB FLOOD SITUATION

REF: LAHORE 0955

1. SINCE LAST CONGEN REPORT (REFTEL), MORE RAIN HAS FALLEN AND RAVI, CHENAB AND JHELMUM RIVERS HAVE ALL BEGUN TO RISE AGAIN. BUND ON LAHORE SIDE OF RAVI (LEFT BANK) WAS SLIGHTLY BREACHED LATE AUGUST 14, BUT ARMY PERSONNEL QUICKLY REPAIRED BREAKS AND CHIEF MINISTER MERAJ KHALID ORDERED IN LARGE SUPPLY OF SAND BAGS. "BUSTEE" INHABITANTS ON BOTH SIDES OF RIVER NONETHELESS BEING CAUTIONED TO MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND AND REMAIN THERE.

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2. TAKING CUE FROM BHUTTO, GOVERNOR KHAR HAS ALSO MADE APPEAL FOR RELIEF ASSISTANCE AND HAS CREATED FUND FOR DONATIONS. KHAR IS QUOTED IN PRESS AS HAVING ESTIMATED RELIEF NEEDS AT 40 TO 50 CRORES OF RUPEES (DOLS 40-50 MILLION).

3. ACCORDING OFFICIALS AT EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF CENTER, FOLLOWING LOSS FIGURES QUOTED IN PRESS AUGUST 15 (AND ATTRIBUTED TO IRRIGATION MINISTER KHALIQ) ESSENTIALLY CORRECT: OVER 2 MILLION ACRES SUBMERGED, OVER 417,000 ACRES OF STANDING CROPS DESTROYED, 54,000 HOUSES COLLAPSED, 1933 CATTLE CARCASSES COUNTED, 93 KNOWN HUMAN DEATHS.

4. WIDE VARIETY OF ENTITIES, FROM POLITICAL PARTIES AND SOCIAL GROUPS TO CIVIL DEFENSE "RAZAKARS" AND CIVILIAN MEDICAL TEAMS HAVE JOINED RELIEF EFFORTS, BUT EFFECTIVE WORK STILL GREATLY HAMPERED BY CONTINUING RAINS AND VAST FLOODED AREAS. TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF MAJOR HEALTH OR FOOD PROBLEM, BUT SINCE STANDING FOOD CROPS AND MUCH OF STORES HAVE BEEN INUNDATED, LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH PROBLEMS INCREASES DAILY. SIGNED KING UNQUOTE.
SOBER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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